

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

CASTLE, Michael N. (Republican)
Representative, At Large, Delaware
Elected 1992 to 103rd Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Wilmington, Delaware - 2 July 1939

Home: Wilmington, Delaware

Marital status: Married (Jane)

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Hamilton College, BA, 1961; Georgetown, LLB, 1964

Military: None

Profession: Public Official, lawyer

Political: DE General Assembly, 1966-67; DE Senate, 1968-76, minority leader, 1976-7; Lt Gov, 1981-85; Governor, 1985-92. Succeeded Rep Tom Carper (D), who successfully ran for governor in 1992, a job Castle left because of term limits, defeating ex-LtGov S.B. Woo (D), winning with 57% of the vote. Reelected in 2000 with 68%, and in 2002 with 72% of the vote.

Rep Castle is a political moderate, fiscally conservative but not afraid to buck the Bush administration on some social issues. In the 106th Congress, during debate on the Intelligence authorization, discussed the importance of space-based assets to national security and how the large number of recent launch failures is an issue of intense concern. Said the HPSCI was most gratified that the new NSA Director, LtGen Mike Hayden, USAF, agreed to conduct unrestrained studies of the need for reform. During the war powers debate on Kosovo, believed initiating the use of ground troops was a serious decision and there must be full consultation with Congress if that decision has to be made. Held meetings with Lockheed and Boeing to review launch failures. Drew attention to several intelligence failures he believed pointed to a need for revitalization. Said he was pleased about a provision in the intelligence auth bill to address a concern with the NRO regarding the overestimation of the costs of launches. Stated that six rocket failures over the last two years have destroyed or made ineffective important military communications and intelligence satellites, risking the national security and costing taxpayers over \$3 billion.

In the 107th Congress, delayed a vote on intelligence legislation because of a dispute over satellite launches by the NRO. The Senate deleted a provision he supported relative to overhauling the NRO satellite launch program; language would have enabled the NRO to negotiate its own satellite launches with the Air Force. After the Sept 01 terrorist attacks, called for greater enforcement of US immigration laws, particularly the visa system. Joined 19 House colleagues in protesting the \$104.5M cut to C-5 aircraft upgrade programs (Avionics Modernization Program and Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining program) by the HAC when it reported the FY02 DoD approps. Announced in April 02 that a squadron of 12 new C-17's would be based at Dover in the next decade. In August 02 suggested that the Global Hawk UAV was no longer a cheap replacement for manned reconnaissance planes such as the U-2, as was planned. In Sept 02 supported the Iraq war powers resolution, though he was concerned about possible unilateral US action.

In the 108th Congress came off the HPSCI on which he had served since 1995. Opposed the FY04 budget resolution because of the large tax cut contained therein and the uncertainty of costs associated with the war in Iraq. Urged the Bush administration to strengthen its unity with the international community as it heads into the post-conflict stage in Iraq.

Additional: Member of moderate House Republican group known as the Tuesday Group.

AF Bases: Dover AFB (Reserve Forces); Greater Wilmington Apt (ANG)

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